

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

GREGORY HOWARD,

Plaintiff,

ORDER

v.

BOUGHTON ET AL,

Case No. 18-cv-1043-jdp

Defendants.

Plaintiff Gregory Howard, a prisoner in the custody of the Wisconsin Secure Program Facility, has submitted a proposed civil action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has filed copies of weekly trust fund account statements for the relevant time period in support of the motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee. After considering the motion and supporting documentation, the court concludes that plaintiff qualifies for indigent status.

Even when a prisoner litigant qualifies for indigent status, the litigant must pay a portion of the fee returned by the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Using information for the relevant time period from plaintiff's trust fund account statements, I calculate plaintiff's initial partial filing fee to be \$8.24. For this case to proceed, plaintiff must submit this amount on or before February 6, 2019.

If plaintiff does not have enough money to make the initial partial payment from plaintiff's regular account, plaintiff should arrange with authorities to pay the remainder from plaintiff's release account.

Plaintiff also filed a motion to use release account funds to pay for copies related to the filing this case. (Dkt. #4). However, with the exception of initial partial payments, federal courts lack the authority to tell state officials whether and to what extent a prisoner should be

able to withdraw money from a release account. Plaintiff cannot use the release account funds to pay for copy fees, and so plaintiff's motion will be denied.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that,

1. Plaintiff Gregory Howard is assessed \$8.24 as an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case. Plaintiff is to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$8.24 or advise the court in writing why plaintiff is not able to submit the assessed amount on or before February 6, 2019.

2. If, by February 6, 2019, plaintiff fails to make the initial partial payment or show cause for failure to do so, plaintiff will be held to have withdrawn this action voluntarily and the case will be closed without prejudice to plaintiff filing this case at a later date.

3. No further action will be taken in this case until the clerk's office receives plaintiff's initial partial filing fee as directed above and the court has screened the complaint as required by the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Once the screening process is complete, a separate order will issue.

Entered this 16th day of January, 2019.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

PETER OPPENEER
Magistrate Judge